

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system, comprising:

a first network for transmitting a non-bandwidth-compressed signal; and

a second network for transmitting a bandwidth-compressed signal,

wherein a switching node of said first network includes a transcoder for performing a conversion between the bandwidth-compressed signal and the non-bandwidth-compressed signal and said switching node is operable in a first mode in which said transcoder is inserted and a signal transmission is performed by performing the conversion between the bandwidth-compressed signal and the non-bandwidth-compressed signal and a second mode in which the bandwidth-compressed signal is transmitted as it is without using said transcoder, and said switching node of said first network ~~including~~ includes means, which, when a terminal is moved to an area of a new switching node of said second network during the second mode, inserts said transcoder, inquires of said switching node of said second network about whether ~~or not~~ a setting information of said transcoder can be changed to a setting information for the second mode and, when there is an acknowledge from said switching node of said second network, changes the mode to the second mode.

2. (Currently amended) A communication system, comprising:

a radio access network for transmitting an audio signal as a bandwidth-compressed signal; and

a core network for transmitting an audio signal as a non-bandwidth-compressed

signal,

wherein a switching node of said core network ~~includes~~ comprises:

a transcoder for performing a conversion between the bandwidth-compressed signal and the non-bandwidth-compressed signal and said switching node is operable in a Transcoder Free Operation connection mode in which the audio signal is transmitted/received between a calling terminal and a called terminal as the bandwidth-compressed signal without using said transcoder, according to a negotiation between said calling and called terminals;

means for performing a communication between said calling and called terminals in said Transcoder Free Operation connection mode and, when one of said calling and called terminals is moved to an area of a switching node of a new radio access network, inserting said transcoder for said switching node of said new radio access network;

means for inquiring, after said transcoder is inserted, of said switching node of said new radio access network, about whether ~~or not~~ a setting information of said transcoder can be changed to a setting information with which a signal format on an input side of said transcoder becomes ~~the a~~ a same format as that on an output side thereof; and

means for changing the mode between said switching node of said core network and said switching node of said new radio access network to said Transcoder Free ~~operation~~ Operation connection mode when there is an acknowledge from said switching node of said new radio access network.

3. (Currently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the audio signal bandwidth-compression system in said radio access network is comprises an Adaptive Multi Rate Coding system, the setting information for bandwidth-compression is comprises a

Rab sub-Flow Combination Identifier (RFCI) information indicative of a value of a mapping table for determining a conversion rate of an audio signal coding frame in the Adaptive Multi Rate Coding system and the inquiry of said switching node of said radio access network is to inquire whether ~~or not~~ the setting information ~~is a~~ comprises an RFCI information whose parameter on an input side of said transcoder is equal to a parameter on an output side of said transcoder.

4. (Currently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the inquiry of the setting information uses a user plane of an Iu interface₁ defined as an interface between said switching node of said core network and said switching node of said radio access network.

5. (Currently amended) In a communication system comprising a radio access network for transmitting an audio signal as a bandwidth-compressed signal and a core network for transmitting an audio signal as a non-bandwidth-compressed signal, a switching node of said core network including a transcoder for performing a conversion between the bandwidth-compressed signal and a non-bandwidth-compressed signal and a communication being performed₁ in a first mode₁ for transmitting a signal by inserting said transcoder and performing the conversion between the bandwidth-compressed signal and the non-bandwidth-compressed signal and₁ in a second mode₁ for transmitting the bandwidth-compressed signal without using the transcoder, an alignment method of said transcoder comprising ~~the steps of:~~

allowing said switching node of said core network to insert said transcoder in said switching node of said core network to thereby set said switching node of said core network

in the first mode when, in a communication between a calling terminal and a called terminal
in the second mode, one of the calling terminal and the called terminal is moved to an area of
a switching node of a new radio access ~~network~~, network;

allowing said switching node of said core network to inquire of said switching node of
said new radio access network about whether ~~or not~~ a setting information of said transcoder
can be changed ~~to a setting information of said transcoder~~ such that ~~the~~ a setting information
on an input side of said transcoder becomes ~~the~~ a same information setting as that on an
output side ~~thereof~~; thereof; and

allowing said switching node of said core network to change the mode to the second
mode when the setting information on the input side of said transcoder is the same as that on
the output side thereof.

6. (Currently amended) An alignment method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the inquiry of
the setting information uses a protocol of a user plane of an Iu interface, defined as an
interface between said switching node of said core network and said switching node of said
radio access network.

7. (Currently amended) An alignment method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the setting
information of said transcoder ~~is~~ comprises a Rab sub-Flow Combination Identifier (RFCI)
information of an Adaptive Multi Rate Codec (AMR) coding system.

8. (Currently amended) A switching node operable in a first mode for performing a
conversion between a bandwidth-compressed signal and a non-bandwidth-compressed signal

by inserting a transcoder and a second mode for transmitting a bandwidth-compressed signal as it is without using the transcoder, ~~comprising~~ said switching node comprising:

a transcoder for performing said conversion between said bandwidth-compressed signal and said non-bandwidth-compressed signal; and

means for inquiring, when a terminal is moved to an area of a new switching node in the second mode of said new switching node, about whether ~~or not~~ a setting information of the transcoder, when the latter is inserted, can be changed to a setting information in the second mode and changing it to the second mode on ~~the~~ a basis of an acknowledge from said new switching node.

9. (Currently amended) A switching node as claimed in claim 8, wherein said switching node is opposing to a switching node of a radio access network for transmitting an audio signal as a bandwidth-compressed signal and the setting information is comprises a Rab sub-Flow Combination Identifier (RFCI) information in an adaptive multi rate coding system.

10. (Currently amended) An alignment method of a transcoder of a switching node operable in a first mode, in which a conversion between a bandwidth-compressed signal and a non-bandwidth-compressed signal is performed by inserting said transcoder, and in a second mode, in which a bandwidth-compressed signal is transmitted without using said transcoder, said method comprising the steps of:

inquiring, when a terminal is moved to an area covered by a new switching node in the second mode, of said new switching node about whether or not a setting information of said transcoder when said transcoder is inserted is changeable to a setting information in the

second mode; and

changing the an operation mode to the second mode on the basis of an acknowledge from said new switching node.

11. (Currently amended) An alignment method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said switching node is opposing to a switching node of a radio access network for transmitting an audio signal as a bandwidth-compressed signal and the setting information is comprises a Rab sub-Flow Combination Identifier (RFCI) information in an adaptive multi rate coding system.

12. (New) A Mobile Switching Center (MSC) in a communication system, said MSC comprising:

a transcoder for converting between a bandwidth-compressed signal and a non-bandwidth-compressed signal; and

a controller placing said MSC in one of:

a first mode, wherein said transcoder is inserted so that a received bandwidth-compressed signal is converted into a non-bandwidth-compressed signal; and

a second mode, wherein said transcoder is not inserted so that said received bandwidth-compressed signal is not converted into a non-bandwidth-compressed signal;

said controller, when a mobile terminal changes a location that requires a change from a first Radio Network Controller (RNC) in communication with said MSC to a second RNC in communication with said MSC and said MSC is currently operating in said second mode, inserts said transcoder to interface with said second RNC to execute an initialization process

of said second RNC that ensures that said second mode is maintained with said second RNC.

13. (New) The MSC of claim 12, wherein said second mode comprises a Transcoder Free Operation (TrFO) and said initialization process comprises a setting of a Rab sub-Flow Combination Identifier (RFCI) information of an Adaptive Multi Rate Codec (AMR) coding system.

14. (New) The MSC of claim 13, said initialization process comprising:

 sending an inquiry from said transcoder to said first RNC to determine an RFCI setting of a current TrFO of said second mode.

15. (New) The MSC of claim 14, said initialization process further comprising:

 sending a relocation request from said transcoder to said second RNC.

16. (New) The MSC of claim 15, said initialization process further comprising:

 sending a request from said transcoder to said second RNC to set an RFCI setting corresponding to said RFCI setting of said current TrFO with said first RNC.

17. (New) The MSC of claim 16, said initialization process further comprising:

 said second RNC sending an acknowledgment to said transcoder that said RFCI setting is set.

18. (New) The MSC of claim 17, said initialization process further comprising:

receiving said acknowledgment from said second RNC by said transcoder; and
said transcoder being released because a TrFO condition has been satisfied, said
second mode thereby being maintained with said second RNC.

19. (New) The MSC of claim 12, wherein said initialization process occurs in an lu
interface.